



**MINUTES – METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015, 4:00 P.M.  
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,  
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Bill Ardern, Leshawn Bowen, Jen Darland, Dr. David Doré, Guillermo Figueroa, Jennifer Flores, Steve Freeman, Javier Herrera, Teri Laguna, Paul Lovelis, Luis Manjarrez, Amber Mathewson, Jo Riester, Jennifer Sprung, Dr. Alan Storm, Dr. Kasey Urquidez, Dr. June Webb-Vignery, James Wiltbank, Pat Wiedhopf, Maggie Zheng.

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Dr. Linda Arzoumanian, Dr. Mary Jan Bancroft, Dennis Barger, Dr. Kent Barrabee, James Cook, Richard Elias, Deborah Embry, George Favela, Molly Gilbert, Rafael Meza, Vicky Mullins, Regina Romero, Dr. Daisy Rodriguez Pitel.

**NON-COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Edward Nossem, David Rodriguez, Dr. Timothy Ogle, Andrew Morrill, Nancy Ruhl, Linda Poppen, Jeremy Holmes, Beth Shine, Matt Haverty, Jessica Salazar-Chatt, Lisa Miller, Yoohyun Jung, Mike Christy, Liz Bruggeman, Jason Freed, Dan Ireland, Phineas Anderson, Martha Lee, Randy Frieze, Johanna Duffek, Kent Gill, Susan Waika, Margaret Chang, Marion Pickens, Andrew Gardner.

- 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER – PAT WIEDHOPF**  
The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.
- 2.0 **ROLL CALL – PAT WIEDHOPF**  
Roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.
- 3.0 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – PAT WIEDHOPF**  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all attendees.
- 4.0 **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 18, 2015 MEETING MINUTES – PAT WIEDHOPF**  
Motion to approve: Javier Herrera  
Second: Jennifer Sprung  
Motion carried 19-0.
- 5.0 **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT – PAT WIEDHOPF**  
Motion: Jennifer Sprung  
Second: r. Kasey Urquidez  
Motion carried 19-0.

6.0 PRESENTATION: DR. TIMOTHY OGLE, AZ SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION & ANDREW MORRILL, AZ EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, ON PROPOSITION 123

Dr. Timothy Ogle, Executive Director of the Arizona School Boards Association, and Andrew Morrill, President of the Arizona Education Association, presented on Proposition 123, a ballot measure that will appear on a special election to take place on May 17, 2016.

Dr. Ogle and Mr. Morrill described the negotiating process between the plaintiffs in the suit brought by the Arizona School Boards Association, Arizona Education Association, and Arizona school business officials to restore funding for public education that was ordered by Arizona appellate court, and upheld by the by the state Supreme Court. The negotiations resulted in Proposition 123, which would allow the state to tap the State Land Trust Fund for education, amend the Arizona State Constitution, and have various stipulations and triggers built into the language of the Proposition.

Both Dr. Ogle and Mr. Morrill stated that Proposition 123 is neither perfect nor comprehensive, but that in this moment it is the best solution to allow a desperately needed, immediate infusion of funding for public education, and if the Proposition does not pass, there is no “Plan B” and no other current option for education funding. The meeting was opened up for questions and comments, and Commissioners and community attendees expressed various opinions and viewpoints on the issue.

An audio recording of the presentation is available from the MEC office.

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS – PAT WIEDHOPE

7.1 Budget – Bill Ardern

The budget is tracking appropriately; the Executive Director’s Report shows current funding applications and awards status. The MEC has received a 4-year grant from the Helios Education Foundation for the Regional College Access Center, and work is underway to implement the provisions of the grant. This grant, titled College Knowing & Going, is an initiative to bring college access support to 19 school districts statewide; the MEC is the Southern Arizona Component and will work in conjunction with Northern Arizona and Central Arizona components. In addition to Pima County, the MEC will be responsible for Nogales and Casa Grande.

The MEC has begun the 2016-2017 RFP application process with both the City of Tucson and Pima County.

7.2 Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon – Dr. June Webb -Vignery

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon will take place on Friday, April 29, 2016 at the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel, 7350 S. Nogales Highway. We have 6 tables: Gold Sponsor: Pima County School Superintendent’s Office; Patron Sponsor – Pima County Attorney’s Office; Table Sponsors: Jim Click Automotive Team; Pima Community College Foundation, University of Arizona Enrollment Management; June Webb-Vignery. The 2016 Honorees are: Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. John Pedicone; Education Advocate Award, General Ron Shoopman; Teacher Award - Jennifer Anglin, Flowing Wells Junior

High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District. The Corporate, Counselor, and Youth Honorees will be determined at later dates. We have re-sent the Sponsor Letters to previous and potential sponsors; MEC Commissioners are encouraged to contact their constituencies to procure tables.

7.3 Appointments –Deborah Embry(not present)

1). Tucson Mayor & Council has approved the reappointment of Regina Romero to represent Tucson City Council members on the Commission.

Motion to approve: Jennifer Sprung

Second: Javier Herrera

Motion carried 19-0.

2). Tucson Mayor & Council has approved the reappointment of Jim Cook as Mayor & Council Appointee representing Parks/Recreation/ Housing.

Motion to approve: Jennifer Sprung

Second: Javier Herrera

Motion carried 19-0.

3). Wells Fargo Bank has recommended Luis Manjarrez to replace Aaron Myers as the Mayor & Council appointee representing Libraries, Museums, and Arts. his appointment was approved by Tucson Mayor & Council.

Motion to approve: Jennifer Sprung

Second: Javier Herrera

Motion carried 19-0.

4). Steven Freeman has agreed to serve another term on the MEC representing the Disabled Community.

Motion to approve: Jennifer Sprung

Second: Javier Herrera

Motion carried 19-0.

7.4 YAC/TTC – Maggie Zheng

The YAC/TTC has been discussing fundraising options, one of which is a “Percentage Night” at a local restaurant, where a percentage of that evening’s income would be donated to the YAC/TTC. The money would be spent on polo shirts, the design is under discussion.

Plans are underway for Civic Engagement Day, to take place on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. We are still seeking funds to hire a bus to travel to Phoenix.

The YAC/TTC’s Holiday Party will take place this evening, and Commissioners were invited to attend and meet the youth.

7.5 Issues –George Favela (not present)

No action.

7.6 Regional College Access Center – David Rodriguez

The Helios Education Foundation has committed approximately \$5.2 million to the College Knowing and Going Initiative over four years to fund all juniors taking the ACT exam in 19 Arizona school districts, implementation of college access activities including application to a postsecondary institution, FAFSA completion, and a multi-year research survey. Dr. Webb-Vignery travelled to Phoenix to meet with Helios Foundation staff to discuss the implementation of the grant.

A Helios funding of \$1,100,000 administered by College Success Arizona through the Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) will provide for coordination through three sites located in southern, central, and northern Arizona. They are: Metropolitan Education Commission's Regional College Access Center (RCAC) for the Southern region; Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) for the Central region; and the Northern Arizona College Resource Center for the Northern region.

The following Southern Arizona school districts and schools are participants:

FLOWING WELLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Flowing Wells, Sentinel Peak High Schools;

SUNNYSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Desert View, Sunnyside High Schools;

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Catalina, Cholla, Palo Verde, Project More, Pueblo, Rincon, Sabino, Sahuaro, Santa Rita, Tucson, University High Schools;

VAIL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Andrada Polytechnic, Cienega, Empire, Pantano, Vail Academy High Schools;

NOGALES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Nogales, Pierson Vocational High Schools;

CASA GRANDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Casa Grande Union, Casa Verde, Desert Winds, Vista Grande High Schools.

We expect that if completed activities will lead to the following outcomes: Short Term – A college-going culture for all students is prevalent in high schools. Secondary leaders set high expectations and create rigorous, college-going environments for all students; Long Term – Increase the percentage of students, especially underserved students, in Arizona graduating prepared for college and career, and completing postsecondary education. The College Knowing and Going Initiative has received recognition from the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics through the 2015 Commitment to Action.

7.7 Key to Employment Symposium – Ed Nossem

The Key to Employment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Symposium will take place on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at the U of A Student Union. The date of the 2016 Key to Employment Symposium is Wednesday, February 3, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the University of Arizona Student Union Ballroom. Planning for the event is underway, and sponsors, exhibitors, and schools are being contacted.

8.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – PAT WIEDHOPF

Motion to approve: Bill Ardern

Second: Paul Lovelis

Motion carried 19-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

